

**An Archaeological Survey of the Hominick Tract,
Centex Properties, Bexar County, Texas**

By

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Abstract

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants conducted a Phase I archaeological survey of the 15.5 acres at the Hominick tract (CenTex Properties) in April, 2006. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the "Archeological Survey Standards for Texas" and was designed to assess any cultural resources on the property. Such resources, if recorded, were to be assessed for significance and potential nomination to National Register of Historic Places. The assessment consisted of a 100% surface inspection. No prehistoric or historic cultural resources were observed that will be affected by development. No further archaeological investigations are recommended.

Introduction

In April, 2006, an archaeological survey was carried out at the Hominick tract in northern Bexar County, Texas (Fig. 1). The survey was done on behalf of CenTex properties and in association with Frost Geosciences of Helotes, Texas. The assessment of 100% of the property was carried out in accordance with the "Archeological Survey Standards for Texas." Any cultural resources were to be evaluated for significance and for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Hominick tract is presently covered in an oak-juniper parkland with about 30% open pasture (Fig.). The ground visibility was good to excellent overall, though dense patches of juniper restricted some movement. The soils over the tract are mostly Tarrant association on 1 to 5 percent slope (Taylor et al. 1991). Tarrant association is a dark brown very shallow calcareous clayey soil with scattered limestone; the soil caps limestone bedrock.

Archaeological Background

Overview

The broad outline of the archaeology of northern Bexar County can be discerned. Major time periods and site types are briefly noted here.

The **Paleoindian** period, 9,200-6,800 B.C., has distinctive chipped stone spear points used in hunting mammoth and other late Ice Age mammals early in the period. Other spear types appear with a shift to bison, deer and other game after the Ice Age ended around 8000 B.C. Known site types in northern Bexar County are *campsites* with flint-chipping debris from stone-tool making and repair. One site of Clovis age (9,200 B.C.) was excavated near FM1604 and Leon Creek. A later site, dating around 7,500 B.C. was investigated on the grounds of St. Mary's Hall on Salado Creek. Most recently, the Chandler site on Culebra Creek has been partially excavated, yielding artifacts between 7,500-6,800 B.C.

Sites of the following **Archaic** period are common in northern Bexar County. These peoples were hunters and gatherers as in the earlier Paleoindian period, but lived in an environment very similar to those of modern times. Projectile points used to tip spears (often erroneously called "arrowheads") change in shape through time, from 6,800 B.C. to 500 A.D. Archaeologists use these forms to recognize more specific time frames within the Archaic (e.g., Early, Middle and Late Archaic). In northern Bexar County, the most distinctive Archaic site is the *burned rock midden*. These large accumulations of fire-cracked limestone result from the use of earth-oven cooking starting around 3,000 B.C. Such features were part of *larger campsites*, with large amounts of flint debris from tool-making; sometimes, animal bone (dietary remains) and charcoal that can be used for radiocarbon dating. Other Archaic site types include *lithic procurement* areas (where flint cobbles eroded out of the Edwards limestone and

feature. In summary, the pedestrian survey failed to find any evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural features that would otherwise warrant additional investigations. No further archaeological work is recommended for this project.

References Cited

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Figures

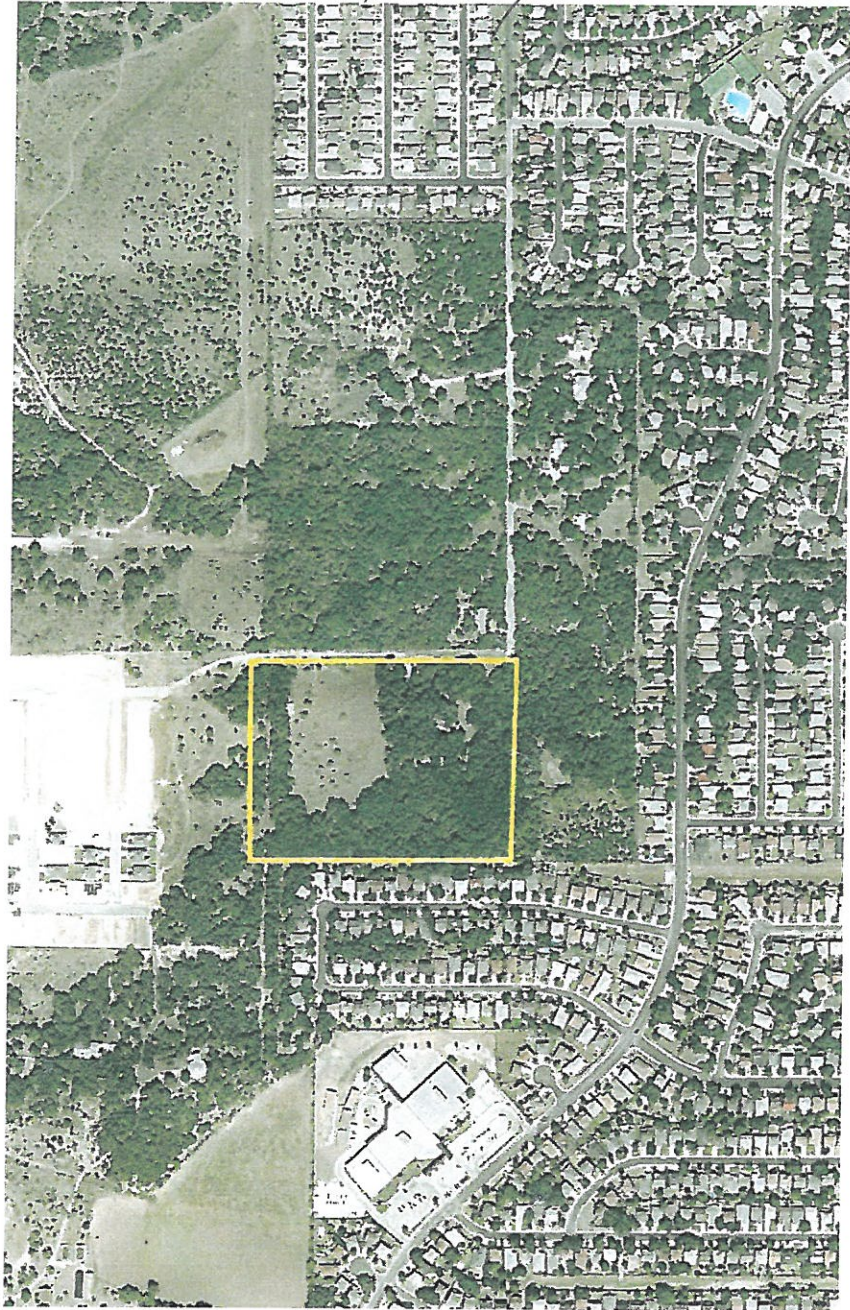


Figure 1. Map of the Hominick Tract showing the survey area and the vegetation patterns. Image provided by Frost GeoSciences.

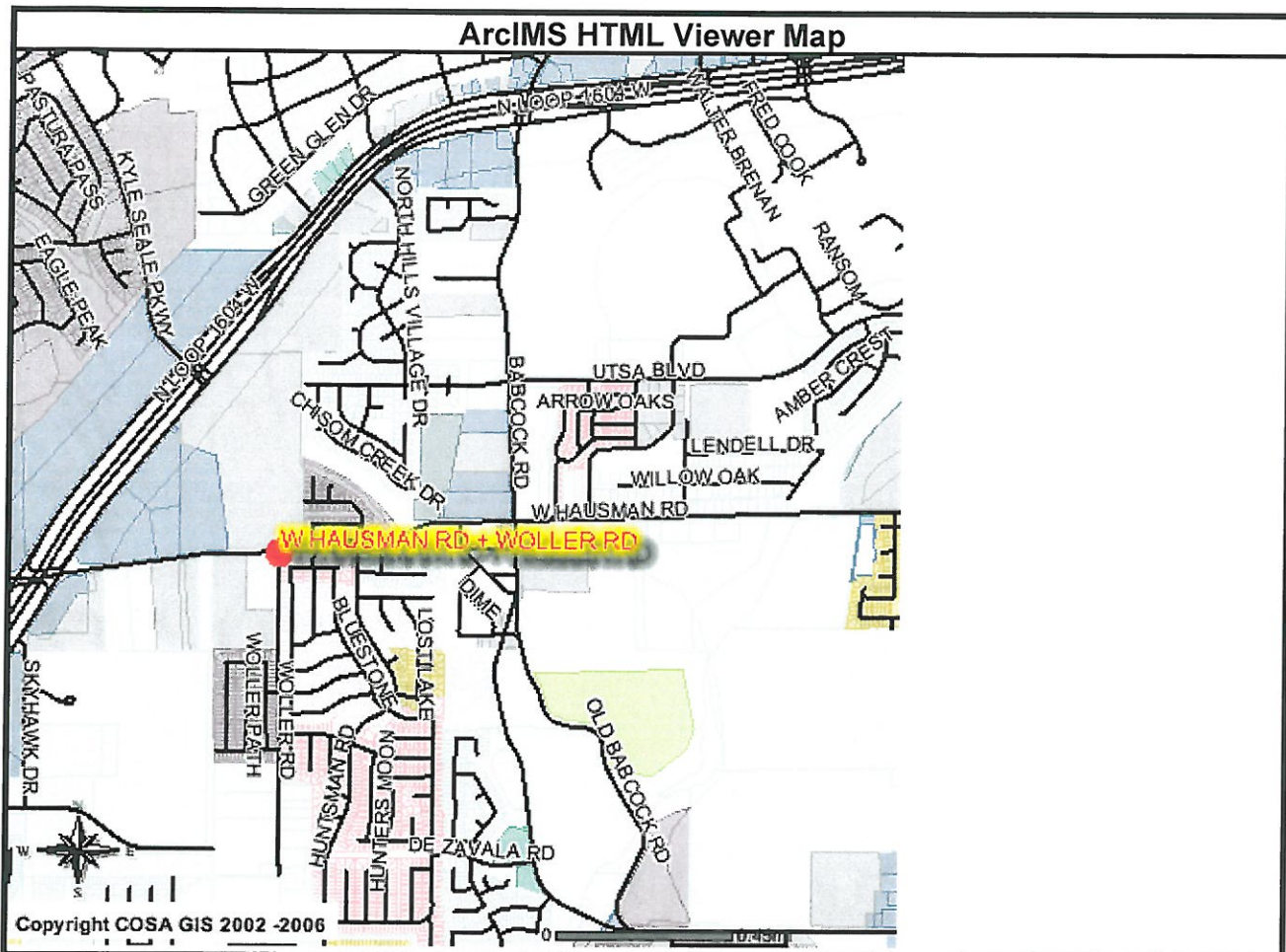




Figure 2. Two views of the Hominick tract showing the open and wooded areas.